



**Building Code Training Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 8, 2024	Location: Video Conference
Attendees: Thomas DiBlasi, Michael Fullerton, Arnie LaRosa, Nicole Lecrenski, Daniel Loos, Thomas Manning, Henry Miga, Michael Musco, Kimberly Rogers, Douglas Schanne, Michael Sevetz, Raymond Steadward, Omarys Vasquez	
Recorder: Shane Cayer	

	Item
I. Introduction	<p>Daniel Loos called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Introductions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Loos, Chairman of Building Code Training Council, Assistant Building Official, Town of West Hartford</li> <li>• Henry Miga, Building Official, Town of Simsbury</li> <li>• Michael Musco, Codes and Standards</li> <li>• Thomas DiBlasi, DiBlasi Associates, American Council of Engineering Companies of CT</li> <li>• Raymond Steadward, COA</li> <li>• Arnie LaRosa, Three Rivers Community College, CBA</li> <li>• Omarys Vasquez, State Building Inspector</li> <li>• Kimberly Rogers, Deputy State Building Inspector</li> <li>• Michael Fullerton, Director of OEDM</li> <li>• Thomas Manning, Vice Chairman of Building Code Council</li> <li>• Douglas Schanne, OEDM Management Training Programs Supervisor</li> <li>• Nicole Lecrenski, OEDM</li> <li>• Shane Cayer, OEDM Secretary</li> </ul> <p>A motion was made by Henry Miga to approve the minutes from the June 30, 2023, were reviewed and approved with spelling edits. Raymond Steadward seconded the motion.</p> <p>As there was not a quorum for the September 14, 2023, meeting, there was a motion by Daniel Loos to accept the documentation as a record of an unofficial meeting. Michael Fullerton seconded the motion. Raymond Steadward noted an error regarding the interchanging of ABO and BO in the first paragraph.</p>

II. New Business

Omarys Vasquez, State Building Inspector, introduced Kimberly Rogers as the new Deputy State Building Inspector. Kimberly Rogers began in this position the week prior and has been acclimating herself to the department.

Michael Fullerton then began the OEDM report. An ABO to BO exam has been implemented and applications are currently being accepted thru the end of the month. It is a fast-track manner for experienced ABOs to bypass the six hours of testing. They will be able take a much shorter online exam in a computing lab in Hartford. We are hoping to start scheduling these exams in early March.

We are also exploring pathways to recognize ICC, DOS and working building officials in other states and a fast-track them as an ABO in Connecticut as well. This will consist of transitioning over to a modular format in order for people to enroll in specific areas of competency that might not be covered under their existing credentials and bypassing other areas in which they are already competent.

These new initiatives will be in addition to the existing pathways to certification.

We are exploring the creation of live programs in May. One of which will be a full day program for energy efficiency on the IC code and how they are implemented residentially and commercially. We will need to hire a third-party instructor for this.

We are exploring a number of other programs as well. Omarys Vasquez, Peter Zvingilas and Michael Fullerton are discussing options for adding more energy efficiency education programs, as well certain other topics which keep coming up over and over again. This would tie into exploring what should be included in upcoming PLTP programs when we begin to change our format.

We are searching for two new trainers to assist with developing new and special programs. This would include a comprehensive plan review program that encompasses both the building and fire sides from start to finish. This could potentially have some programs to address green codes and resiliency as well as other matters that come up as needed or if there's a mandate or a push for it, something can be developed. Then we can move on to the longer-term OEDM goals and objectives starting in 2025.

The PLTP is in the process of being modularized. It will be a month-to-month series of topics which will cover all of the codes and administrative functions of those codes. It will create an easier path of an a la carte approach. People are going to have a much longer period of time to complete all of the modules required for their credential. In the future we are hoping to be able to offer outside locations more regionally convenient such as in community colleges.

Michael would like to receive input as to what are some significant topics that are not being addressed in our classes. When refining our programs it is important to include pertinent topics and to remove topics that are longer significant. It was established that sending out emails with the attached curriculum and receiving

comments in return would be a good start. Then special meetings can be scheduled as needed for additional discussions.

Omarys Vasquez elaborated on the importance of developing a modular program. There has been a significant amount of feedback regarding the challenges of having to dedicate staff time to come to the PLTP program two days a week for six straight months. We're hoping to remove barriers to people who may be very well versed in the electrical portion, but not very well versed in the administrative portion or the residential portion. This will give them the opportunity to take that one-month class to brush up on weaker skills and then challenge the full exam. Or they can collect each exam until they have all 8 exams, and then receive the BO certification.

Additionally, it allows us to open up seats to those who were previously wait listed by avoiding the issue of individuals who already hold credentials and licenses like RBIs and electrical inspectors occupying seats, attend a couple of classes, take the challenge exam, pass it, and then drop out of the class. Similarly, being modular allows us to expand the program to include regulatory changes or policy alterations.

This will also ease in the ability to search people with an expertise not available in a specific town. We can suggest a person who has passed a higher-level module in our program. It will allow for a better feel of strengths and needs of communities and can pass that information on accordingly.

Henry Miga suggested rating courses based on its skill level. Some people would like to have a higher-level course that will challenge them as opposed to having everything be represented at a base level. A goal is to have the PLP program include all the rudiments and then start offering intermediate special programs and have creative elements be the more advanced. Then the programs can be differentiated in terms of perceived difficulty.

Douglas Schanne then proceeded to discuss Spring career development programs. A professional engineering group will be discussing building and flood hazard areas. Ray Walker will be conducting a program on the challenges for the code officials. Doug Coulter will be discussing the ICF buildings and construction. Mike Isabelle will be discussing Community risk assessment. We are attempting to schedule Tim Glucci in May for an in-person program for building officials. Currently this month Paul Cook is conducting an in-person program for fire investigators. Michael and Doug have been discussing offering a mixture of in-person training as well as online training. We're also in the process of completing the permit tech planning at the end of March. There are a couple energy related programs coming up in May and June.

A survey will be distributed to people regarding topics that people like to see developed. It hasn't been done in a while and it would be beneficial to start soliciting some feedback regarding what people want to see, what programs have been successful, what programs and areas they think need to be represented, and

	<p>where they feel that their own personal training seems to be needing a bit of a refresher.</p> <p>Michael Fullerton will be reviewing and updating the current list of committee members. The list will then be distributed to members. We are likely looking to fill vacant seats.</p>
III. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:42pm.
IV. Next Meeting	Shane Cayer will send out a Teams Meeting for June 13, 2024, at 2:00pm.